Dr. A. R. Menon.—Please refer to Appendix VI. In the first column, page 34, Statement II, take 6th Chingam 1102. There are 4 persons given. Now, the strength of the staff was 12 in the Hospital on that day (6th Chingam 1102). There were only four, and if you refer to the statement on the other side (Statement No. III), you will find the number of patients. In-patients 158, out-patients 403. I wish to know whether this leave was granted to a large number of this staff with or without the sanction of the Government.

President.—On the particular day (6th Chingam 1102 only 4 were present. Eight were absent.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—And all the junior staff—the subordinate staff.

President.—And the others were absent on leave. They might have been absent. Your question is whether the leave was granted with the permission of the Government or by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is the first supplementary question.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The date specified was during the Onam holidays, sanctioned by the Government, and so they are entitled to be absent. For the purpose of entering on leave *my* permission alone is necessary.

President.—And you permitted?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes, Sir.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was the Hospital left without a Civil Surgeon?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I was at head-quarters ready to attend to any emergency. As a matter of fact, on the 6th I had been there twice.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is alright.

The deputation of an Assistant Surgeon to the operation theatre, General Hospital.

48. Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether a full-timed Assistant Surgeon was deputed to assist the Civil Surgeon, General Hospital, Ernakulam, in the operation theatre, and from what date was it;

(b) was there any immediate reason for the appointment?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) No.

(b) No answer is called for.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Has there been any man deputed to do that work in the operation theatre—that is, to assist the Civil Surgeon—and has anybody been removed from that place after the receipt of this question?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There has been no change of hands.

President.—Is there any man deputed to assist the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Only for that? There is no one specially deputed for work only. There is one Assistant Surgeon who is in charge of the surgical wards also.

President.—His sole duty does not consist in assisting the Civil Surgeon. He has other work to do.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Now, when was he given charge of the beds? He says he has to do this work in addition to other works. I wish to know what the additional work is, and whether any change was effected in the designation of the work of this gentleman.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, Sir, nothing that I know of. This Assistant Surgeon has been working there for the last 6 or 8 months, and he has been doing the same work up to now. No change whatsoever has been effected, so far as that man's work is concerned.

President.—In addition to assisting in the operation theatre, what other works are he entrusted with?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—He is my subordinate in charge of the surgical wards. If I have an extra hand, I send that hand also to help him, especially when he is engaged in the operation theatre.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was there a hand like this before the time of the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, or was he taken for this special duty after the appointment of this Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—He was on the medical side; I shift them about from place to place, and now I have taken him to the surgical side.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was it only a re-distribution of the work or the entertainment of a new person? Is it a creation of the work or only a change?

President.—According to what I understood from Dr. Verghese, I think it was a re-distribution of the work. There was a certain kind of work allotted to him. After he came, he found the necessity of re-distributing it by placing him in charge of some other work.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I want to know is, "Was there such a man—was there an operation assistant doing duty in the theatre, before the advent of the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer."

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is no man specially doing duty in the operation theatre.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—That is not what I want.

President.—Before your time, was there any man, any Assistant Surgeon, deputed to assist the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre? That is the only point. That is a question of fact. Was there, to your knowledge, any person in the grade of Assistant Surgeon, deputed to assist the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The present man was doing that work.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—So there *was* a man. Thank you. That is alright.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The present man was doing that work.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then there was a man?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—But he was in the medical ward.

President.—This is not a reference to a particular person. It is only with reference to the work done.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I asked a specific question—was there a man appointed to do the duty that this gentleman is doing to-day, before the advent of the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

President.—On analysis I find it to be this. Your question was whether, before the advent of the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, an Assistant Surgeon used to render help to the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—A full-timed Assistant Surgeon to help the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre itself?

President.—There was no person appointed solely for that purpose, and then, when necessity arises, and according to circumstances, he will be sent to assist the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre. That is the answer now given.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It comes to this, then, that operations have to be done without an assistant. In this case there is a man on the spot, and we call him out to assist. That is all.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This was a new invention after the advent of the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—Was there a man to assist the Civil Surgeon in the operation theatre before your advent?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There was.

A statement of operations in the General Hospital.

49. **Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number and description of the various operations performed in the General Hospital, Ernakulam, during the last 4 years, from 1098, year by year?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Statements containing the information are placed on the Council Secretary's table for reference.

The selection of nurses for the operation theatre.

50. **Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether a junior nurse has been selected for training in the operation theatre, while there were senior hands, as matrons and nurses, willing to get the necessary training, and why, if the answer is in the affirmative, the selection was so made;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Civil Surgeon, Trichur, requested his nurses to be trained in the operation theatre at Ernakulam, and what were the orders passed in that connection; (a copy of the order may be placed on the table);

(c) whether it will be arranged that all nurses are taken for the necessary training in the operation theatre for a fixed period by turns?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) The most suitable one amongst the nurses was selected as an assistant to the Sister in charge of the operation theatre. The choice is at the discretion of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

(b) The Civil Surgeon, Trichur, requested that the volunteer nurses may be trained in the General Hospital. They were novices untrained in the elements of nursing and not on the Permanent staff of the Hospital. It was premature to give them the special training in the operation theatre. A copy of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer's order is appended. (*Vide Appendix VII.*)

(c) No; because it is not necessary to give all the nurses of a hospital this special training, and it is only intended for select nurses.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was the present incumbent the only one suitable and competent nurse in the General Hospital, Ernakulam? Is it the opinion of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly